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This is the third in a series of newsletters, published to provide interested community members with information about the Bell Bay Pulp Mill Project.

We will continue to provide this newsletter regularly and encourage interested people to make contact with Gunns if they would like more information about the project.

Plantation Harvesting Trial

Gunns Limited has recently undertaken an extensive plantation harvesting trial on Surrey Hills in NW Tasmania. The trial was conducted from 10 August-6 October 2011. The study area was a 17 year *E.nitens* plantation (CP106b).

The trial was run and coordinated through the CRC Program 3 Harvesting and Operations Program. Significant time, resources and expertise was also contributed from Gunns' local harvesting staff in NW Tasmania.

The trial will provide information as a result of the following specific aims:

- 1 Assessment of the potential available volume of plantation residue for use as biofuel from *E.nitens* plantations and the volume of plantation residue that was likely to remain on site.
- 2 The viability of alternative methods of harvesting the plantation residue.
- 3 A productivity analysis of two potential harvest systems that may be used in the harvesting of wood fibre for the pulp mill.

We recognise the value of these operational research trials to our business and contracting workforce, in reviewing the latest technology and harvest systems used by forestry organisations at both a national and International level.



From small scale plantings of *P.radiata* in the mid 1950's to the trial plantings of *E.nitens* in the 1970's, we now have an industrial scale Tasmanian plantation estate well in excess of 160,000 hectares. Over the years, significant changes in the techniques used to establish these plantations have been undertaken including, in recent years, the reduction in the reliance and use of chemicals, poisons and slash burning.

Newly planted seedlings are highly susceptible to browsing from wallabies and possums. With the cessation of the use of 1080 in 2010, we now implement a non poisoning strategy utilising biodegradable netting sleeves on the seedling; planting at the optimal time to ensure immediate growth; application of Control Release Fertiliser to the seedling as it is planted to promote initial rapid growth and the use of professional shooters.

As part of the land preparation process for replanting, the majority of the harvesting residues (slash) were usually burnt to remove the bulk to maximise land use. This broad scale burning practice ceased in 2011. The level of harvesting residues are now minimised by ensuring maximum utilisation of wood products from the site; infield chipping where appropriate and the use of specialised site preparation machinery, which enables effective soil cultivation within the harvesting slash.

INTRODUCING Lawson Harding



Lawson has been a member of Gunns' pulp mill team for six years and came to join Gunns from the then Comalco Aluminium (Bell Bay) smelter, where he was employed as their site Environmental Scientist. Lawson first worked within Gunns' forestry and processing sections before transferring to the pulp mill project full time after the State and Commonwealth permits were granted in 2007.

Lawson's current role is that of 'Environmental Specialist' and he is responsible for the development and implementation of all environmental monitoring requirements for the project. Over the last three years, Lawson has project managed the very detailed hydrodynamic modelling and related studies, reported to and accepted by both State and Commonwealth regulators during 2011.

Lawson's technical qualifications include a Bachelor of Aquaculture (UTAS). As Lawson's work has a substantive focus on marine ecology issues, his qualifications provide a sound grounding for this highly technical role. A key component of Lawson's duties are to ensure that all programs, required by regulators and other stakeholders, are both fit for purpose and incorporate up-to-date knowledge from within several fields of environmental science. Recently, Lawson has also been assisting Gunns' external relations team to clarify many environmentally based misunderstandings associated with the project that are held by some, by meeting directly with a broad range of stakeholders and discussing any concerns.



Bulk Earthworks

Over 40 items of heavy earthmoving plant are operating on the Bell Bay pulp mill site by the contractors John Holland and Hazell Brothers.

Plant has been sourced from Hazell Brothers, together with five other Tasmanian major earthmoving contractors across the State. If this stage of the pulp mill project was not underway, this plant would be standing idle.

Progress to date has been extremely good with the movement of 250,000 cubic meters (35% of total job) of material transported with 5 scrapers and 12 dump trucks. It is now expected that less rock will be encountered than first indicated by the site rock drilling. This will result in less drilling and blasting.

Notices were placed in the Tasmanian Examiner on 29 October and 5 November to advise that blasting can commence for a four month period, from 8 November 2011. It is likely that blasting will be undertaken a few times a week until Christmas. Local residents will be kept informed.



Did you know. . .

that of the 60 plus workers currently on the Bell Bay pulp mill construction site (from management down), all but one are Tasmanian.

INTRODUCING Darren Herd



Darren is employed as the Wood Procurement Manager for Gunns Forest Products in Tasmania. He has been employed at Gunns Limited for 15 years, with experience gained in all geographic regions of the State.

Darren is currently responsible for ensuring that harvesting, cartage and road construction operations associated with plantation wood supply, are carried out in accordance with legislative requirements and to the highest standards required under the Gunns Safety Health & Environmental Management System.

Darren has tertiary qualifications in Forest Science, which encompass a range of fields including ecology, logistics, landscape management, earth sciences and resource management.

Monitoring

Gunns have undertaken a significant body of work over the last several years to establish substantive baseline data sets for comparison to future environmental monitoring requirements.

The information obtained under these programs has been and will continue to be published at least annually. All of the programs are undertaken by organisations that have the necessary expertise to provide robust assessment(s) within one or more specific fields. All data reportable to the Commonwealth is routinely audited by specialist environmental auditors before publication. Similar requirements also apply for State reports.

In the marine environment, baseline data sets for Bass Strait and Tamar Estuary water quality is essentially complete. Future baseline monitoring is still required for other aspects, including sediment quality, and to fully describe the diversity and make up of marine ecological communities in the locale of Five Mile Bluff off the north coast of Tasmania.

The baseline information has been and will continue to be obtained in accordance with strict and thorough protocols defined under regulatory permits for the project. The remaining construction period will be utilised to obtain all the remaining necessary information to facilitate a range of before-after comparisons well into the future and throughout the operational life of the pulp mill.

If you would like to know more about this aspect of the project, please feel free to contact Gunns via the contact details on the back of this newsletter.

Killian Halpin, Hazell Bros
undertaking a spot noise check
in the Rowella area



FURTHER INFORMATION

To provide comment or for general enquiries on this publication please use our 'blog' site at gunnsblog.com.

For further information on the Bell Bay Pulp Mill Project, please visit www.gunnspulpmill.com.au

For general enquiries or more urgent concerns associated with construction activities, please contact us on the following:

- Ph 03 6335 5459 or bettina.goodwin@gunns.com.au
- Ph 1800 265 297 or 0458 001 785 from mobile phones (after business hours)
- Email – pulpmill@gunns.com.au

Community Liaison Committee (CLC)

The Bell Bay Pulp Mill Community Liaison Committee (CLC) had its first full meeting on 15 November. This is the first of many meetings that will help ensure Gunns addresses local issues and concerns that may arise with the project.

The inclusion of five new community members completes the CLC, which has been running until now with six organisational representatives. It is a significant step to have these community members on board to represent the diversity of views in the community. Community members were subject to the open nomination process run by the organisational members.

The role of the CLC is to represent the range of stakeholders with an interest in the project, provide advice and discussion on local community issues, oversee project grievance management processes, help distribute project information, and provide advice on local community engagement activities and community relations.

There are 11 members of the Bell Bay Pulp Mill CLC, including: Mr Robert McKinnon and Scott Semmens (Launceston), Mr Mike McCausland (West Tamar), Mr Doug Burt (endorsed Chair) and Dr Tim Cory (George Town) as Community Representatives; Mr Calton Frame (Gunns); Inspector John King (representing emergency services); Ms Maree Tetlow (Launceston Council); Mayor Roger Broomhall (George Town Council); Mr Craig Petterwood (RACT) and Ms Bettina Goodwin (Gunns) (Secretariat).

If you would like to know more about the Bell Bay Pulp Mill CLC please contact Bettina Goodwin, Gunns Limited's Community Liaison Officer, on 03 6335 5459 or bettina.goodwin@gunns.com.au

Pulp Mill Assessment Act 2007 – Section 11

There has been some community interest in relation to the above Section. Section 11 relevantly provides as follows:

- 1 *Subject to subsection (3) and notwithstanding the provisions of any other Act -*
 - a *a person is not entitled to appeal to a body or other person, court or tribunal; or*
 - b *no order or review may be made under the Judicial Review Act 2000; or*
 - c *no declaratory judgment may be given; or*
 - d *no other action or proceeding may be brought -*
in respect of any action, decision, process, matter or thing arising out of or relating to any assessment or approval of the project under this Act.
- 2 *For the purposes of sub-section (1), "any action, decision, process, matter or thing arising out of or relating to any assessment or approval of the project under this Act" includes any action, decision, process, matter or thing arising out of or relating to a condition of the Pulp Mill Permit requiring that the person proposing the project apply for such other permits, licences or other approvals as may be necessary for the project.*

This section does not affect the rights of land owners as it specifically relates to the "assessment or approval of the project" (as highlighted in bold above) and not the operations of the project.

Land owner rights to common law are fully preserved, as they should be, in relation to the operations of the pulp mill.